(b) if so, whether Indian IT Professionals will be offered employment in U.K.; and

(c) the number of professionals appointed so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) of India has recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Computer Software and Service Associations (CSSA) of UK, to increase cooperation between the two countries in IT software and services sector. This is likely to increase business to business interactions between two countries, and also off-shore and on-site assignments for IT professionals.

Carrying limit for Manual Labour

*344. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ILO and the Labour Department both at the Centre and State level are trying to enforce 50 kg. carrying limit for a manual labour;

(b) if not, whether Government feel the need of enforcing such measures and whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to enforce 50 kg. carrying limit for a manual labour; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to do so?

(d) THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA): (a) to (c) A decision was taken by the Central Government in September, 1994 to switch over to 50 kg. packaging of foodgrains keeping in view the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention No. 127 and Recommendation No. 128 regarding the maximum permissible weight to be carried by an adult person. It was also decided that the total change over to 50 kg. packaging of wheat and rice will be resorted to in a phased manner in the next 5 years starting from the 1994-95 Kharif Marketing Season. Wheat and levy rice are already being procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in 50 kg. bags and only paddy is being procured in 75 kg. bags. It is expected that FCI would be able to switch over to 50 kg. bags completely with effect from Rabi Marketing Season 2002-2003.

So far as packing of sugar is concerned, it has been decided to switch over to 50 kg. bags and also suitably amend the Sugar (Packing & Marking) Order 1970 as soon as such bags are approved by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

As per available information, cement, fertilizers and chemicals are already being packed in 50 kg. bags.

As per the ILO Recommendation No. 128, Government has also been promoting the concept of 55 kg. carrying limit in other sectors through the following measures:

(i) Model Rules under the Factories Act have been circulated to State Governments (55 kg. for male and 30 kg. for female workers)

(ii) Dock Workers (Safety, Health & Welfare) Regulation, 1990 framed under Dock Workers (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act 1986 (which prescribe use of winch or other suitable technical means for handling any hatch cover or beam of any hatch weighing above 55 kg.)

(iii) Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Central Rules, 1998 (55 kg. for adult male, 30 kg. for adult female and 30 kg for adolescent male and 20 kg for adolescent female)

(iv) All Ministers/Departments of the Central Government and all State Governments have been requested to ensure that no worker is permitted to engage in manual transport of load exceeding 50 kg.

Reservation in Promotions in Selection Grade

*345. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued instructions for making reservation/promotion in the Selection Grade on the basis of judgement of the Supreme Court of India in Ajit Singh II on the analogy of the Ministry of Railways;

(b) if so, when official instructions were issued in this regard;

(c) whether these instructions are being implemented;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the State Governments have also sought clarifications in this connection; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government of India have not issue any instructions regarding reservation/promotion in the Selection Grade on the basis of the Supreme Court Judgement in Ajit Singh II case on the analogy of the Ministry of Railways.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of what has been stated in part (a).

(e) and (f) No such communication has been received from any State Government.